

in jail. This is very important to try to reduce the threat of violent crime.

Just a couple of days ago on Veterans Day, as I have every year since I've been President, I laid a wreath on the tomb of the unknown servicemen who gave their lives in service to our country. Today it is with great pride that I stand here with many of our law enforcement officers who, every day, are prepared to make the same sacrifice. Together, we are working to make America stronger in the 21st century. And again, let me thank you all.

Now I'd like to ask the Members of Congress and Officers Grace and McLhinney and Mr. Degan, if you would come up here, I'd like for you to stand with us as we sign the bill. Please.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:17 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr., of Maryland; Gil Gallegos, president, Fraternal Order of Police; Thomas Nee, president, Boston Police Patrolmen's Association; Jerry Flynn, national vice president, International Brotherhood of Police Officers; Richard J. Gallo, national president, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; Sam Cabral, president, International Union of Police Associations; and Debra J. Geary, national president, Concerns of Police Survivors. At time of publication, S. 1525, Police, Fire, and Emergency Officers Educational Assistance Act of 1998, and S. 191, An Act To Throttle Criminal Use of Guns, both approved November 13, had not yet been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Public Law number.

Statement on International Economic Support for Brazil

November 13, 1998

Today's agreement between the International Monetary Fund and Brazil is an important step in our effort to deal effectively with the global financial crisis and protect American prosperity and jobs.

The United States has been working with our partners in the G-7 and the emerging markets on a set of specific actions to spur global growth. Last month, the world's leading economies agreed to support new IMF tools to help countries with sound economic

policies ward off global financial crisis. Today, we are taking the first step to implement those ideas by putting Brazil in a position to confront the financial turmoil that threatens growth, not only in emerging markets but in economies around the world.

A strong Brazil is in America's interests, and President Cardoso has launched a solid program to tackle its fiscal problems that he has committed to implement swiftly. Under President Cardoso, Brazil has already embraced economic reform with the Real Plan and the support of the Brazilian people and the Brazilian Congress. Brazil has cut inflation from more than 2000 percent to single digits in less than 4 years, helped lift 13 million Brazilians above the poverty line, and achieved economic growth of 4 percent a year.

Brazil's prosperity is important for Americans. The United States is Brazil's largest single trading partner, and our exports to Brazil have more than doubled since 1992. A strong Brazil makes for a stronger United States, and today's announcement will help give both countries an opportunity to secure a brighter future.

Statement on Signing the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act

November 13, 1998

Today I have signed into law S. 1397, the "Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act."

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright completed the first successful manned flight of a heavier-than-air machine. This historic moment marked the first step in a long journey through the skies that would ultimately take Americans beyond Earth's atmosphere and into space. This Act establishes a commission to coordinate the commemoration of this achievement, the benefits of which we are continuing to reap.

I am advised by the Department of Justice that section 9 of S. 1397, which authorizes the commission to devise a logo and regulate and license its use, is inconsistent with the Appointments Clause of the Constitution and that, accordingly, these functions may not be

performed by the commission as it is currently organized. Similarly, although section 5(a)(3) directs the commission to “plan and develop” its own commemorative activities, the commission may not itself implement such activities because of Appointments Clause concerns. Finally, I also understand that the statute poses potential conflicts of interest problems. In contracting and in selecting an executive staff director and staff members (who will be considered Federal employees), the commission will need to take appropriate actions to avoid such conflicts. My Administration will work closely with the Congress to address these issues in future legislation.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 13, 1998.

NOTE: At time of publication, S. 1397, approved November 13, had not yet been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Public Law number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Statement on Signing the Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Development Reform Act of 1998

November 13, 1998

Today I have signed into law S. 2364, the “Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Development Reform Act of 1998.” This legislation reauthorizes the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), which provide grant assistance to help rural and urban distressed areas create economic opportunity and job growth in their communities.

The EDA, a reinvented agency within the Department of Commerce, promotes economic development in distressed communities—communities with unemployment above the national average, low income, or special needs created by events such as natural disasters, military base closures, or defense industry downsizing. Title I of the Act reauthorizes the EDA and tightens eligibility criteria to ensure that the EDA can better

serve the needs of distressed communities, simplifies application procedures, and streamlines statutory authorities by eliminating obsolete programs.

Title II of the Act reauthorizes the ARC. Established by the Congress in 1965, the ARC is a Federal-State partnership providing social and economic support for a 13-State region stretching from southern New York to northern Mississippi. The ARC targets its resources to the region’s most distressed areas. Since the mid-1960s, the region’s poverty rate has been cut in half; the percentage of adults with a high school education has doubled; and the infant mortality rate has been cut by two-thirds.

This Act recognizes that future growth requires improved physical infrastructure, a skilled workforce, an emphasis on creating entrepreneurial communities, the deployment of new technologies for business development, and a concerted effort to make the Nation more competitive in international markets. This legislation also maintains the critical role of local development districts in economic growth.

Reauthorization of the EDA and the ARC represents an important step in my Administration’s efforts to ensure that all parts of America participate in the economic growth that this country has enjoyed over the past 6 years.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 13, 1998.

NOTE: At time of publication, S. 2364, approved November 13, had not yet been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a Public Law number. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Statement on Signing the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998

November 13, 1998

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 1693, the “National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998.”

The Act, which passed with bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress, is a major